

# TREE GUIDE

**SANDY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**440 EAST 8680 SOUTH - SANDY, UTAH 84070**

**P: 801.568.2900 - F: 801.561.6733**

**WWW.SANDY.UTAH.GOV**



**WHAT DO YOU KNOW  
ABOUT TREES?**



# TAKE THE TREE QUIZ

1. Which tree is the Utah State Tree?
  - A. Rocky Mountain Juniper
  - B. Blue Spruce
  - C. Big Tooth Maple
  - D. Box Elder
2. Which tree has its needles in bundles of 2 or more?
  - A. Blue Spruce
  - B. Douglas Fir
  - C. Austrian Pine
  - D. White Fir
3. Which tree would you choose for rapid growth?
  - A. Bur Oak
  - B. Hybrid Poplar
  - C. American Beech
  - D. Red Maple
4. To help avoid future tree/sidewalk conflicts, which tree would be best to plant near a sidewalk?
  - A. Red Oak
  - B. Silver Maple
5. Which tree would provide the greatest shade at maturity?
  - A. Sugar Maple
  - B. Northern Catalpa
  - C. Sweetgum
  - D. Goldenrain Tree
6. Which tree would be most likely to attract wildlife to your yard?
  - A. White Fir
  - B. American Mountainash
  - C. Live Oak
  - D. Purpleleaf Sand Cherry



Blue Spruce Trees at Willow Creek Park

7. To provide cooling shade in the summer which would be the best side of the house at which to plant large deciduous trees?
  - A. Southeast
  - B. Southwest
  - C. West
  - D. North
8. Which tree would be best for planting 10' from a one-story building?
  - A. Goldenrain Tree
  - B. Red Oak
  - C. Blue Spruce
  - D. Dawn Redwood
9. Which tree is most appropriate to plant beneath or in close proximity to overhead utility lines?
  - A. Hybrid Poplar
  - B. Redbud
  - C. Norway Spruce
  - D. None of the above
10. Which Tree would be best suited for planting in a parking lot?
  - A. Weeping Willow
  - B. American Mountainash
  - C. Scarlet Oak
  - D. Lacebark Elm

Goldenrain Tree



answers on page 11

---

Trees are magnificent things. Besides the extraordinary beauty they provide, they also serve us by providing oxygen, removing pollution from our air, cooling our cities and controlling storm runoff. Our cities need trees. Trees raise our property values, screen out unsightly views, filter noise, and are psychologically calming. Trees provide benefits that make our cities both functional and liveable.

Trees can also be an expensive liability when growing in the wrong spot or the wrong species growing in the right spot. The trees that grow in and around our City make up our Urban Forest. The best tool to manage our urban forest is to make sure we have the right tree in the right place. Sandy City has developed ordinances and policies to help insure that we have the right trees in the right places. These policies are designed to avoid costly repairs to the City's infrastructure and to provide for the public safety of Sandy City residents.



Amur Maple

Specifically, Sandy City has a list of tree species not allowed in parkstrips due to heavy surface roots which raise the sidewalks and curbs and cause tripping hazards for pedestrians, especially the elderly. We have ordinances that require trees to be pruned so that traffic and street signs are not blocked, providing protection for those traveling on our streets. We have a site triangle ordinance for corner properties to ensure proper views of intersections, allowing drivers unobstructed views of oncoming traffic.

These tree related concerns and a few others are necessary requirements for living in our community and being good neighbors and responsible citizens. This booklet is being published to provide information on your role as a homeowner and how you can help Sandy City develop a beautiful and sustainable urban forest.

---



# SANDY CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT

## COMMUNITY FORESTRY

### PARKSTRIP TREE SELECTION



Autumn Blaze Maple

**ACCEPTABLE TREES** These trees are recommended  
(not to be taken as a comprehensive list).

Maples (Acer)

Norway Maple (Platanoides)

Columnar

Crimson King

Crimson sentry

Deborah

Emerald Queen

Parkway

Royal Red

Hedge Maple (Campestre)

Red Maple (Rubrum)

October Glory

Red Sunset

Scarlet Sentinel

Autumn Blaze

Fairly narrow growth habit

Purple foliage all year round

Purple foliage, narrow and dense habit

Faster growing than most Maples, deep bronze-green leaves

Widely used Norway cultivar

Similar to Emerald Queen, but narrower growth habit

Deeper red than Crimson King

Round headed Maple to 30' height

Brilliant fall color, round headed to 30' height

Beautiful orange to red fall color, oval crown to 45' height

Narrow growth, yellow-orange fall color

Larger of Rubrum cultivars, brilliant red-orange fall color

Horsechestnut (Aesculus)

Oak (Quercus)

Red Oak (Quercus Rubra)

Crimson Spire (Quercus Robur)

Linden (Tilia)

Little Leaf Linden (Tilia Cordata)

Redmond Linden (Tilia Americana)

Crimean Linden (Tilia Euchlora)

Common Hackberry (Celtis Occidentalis)

Japanese Zelkova (Zelkova Serrata)

Umbrella Tree (Catalpa)

Modesto Ash (Fraxinus Velutina)

Goldenrain Tree (Koelreuteria Paniculata)

Goldenchain Tree (Laburnum Watereri)

Chinese Elm (Ulmus Parvifolia) Not to be confused with Siberian Elm, a Utah neo-native

Flowering Pear (Pyrus Callerna)

Aristocrat

Bradford

Capital

Chanticleer

Redspire

Larger of Calleryana pears, reddish-purple fall color

Most widely used of flowering pears, red fall color

Narrow habit, reddish-purple fall color

Columnar habit, orange to red fall color

More profuse spring flowering, one of most hardy pears



Parkway Maple



***A Parkstrip is defined as the area  
between the public sidewalk  
and the city street***



## ACCEPTABLE TREES CONTINUED:

### Crabapple (Malus)

- Radiant (pink flower)
- Prairie Fire (pink flower)
- Snow in Spring (white flower)
- Snowdrift (white flower)

### Hawthorn (Crataegus Lavaliei)

### Kwanzan Cherry (Prunus Serrulata)

### Honey Locust (Gleditsia Tricanthos)

- Imperial
- Shademaster
- Skyline
- Sunburst

### Kentucky Coffee Tree (Gymnocladus)

### European Mt. Ash (Sorbus Acuparia)

There are a wide variety of crabapples to choose from, with white to pink flowers and small to large fruits. Some are more susceptible to disease. TheParks Department has had success with the 4 varieties listed.



- Graceful rounded variety to 35'
- Straight, strong trunk, dark green foliage to 45'
- Pyramidal form, larger of honey locust species
- Bright golden foliage on tips of branches to 40'
- Leaves resembles Honeylocust
- Clusters of bright orange berries height



Redbud



Crimson Cloud English Hawthorn

## UNACCEPTABLE TREES FOR PARKSTRIPS:

### Silver Maple (Acer Saccharinum)

### London Plane Tree (Platanus)

### Siberian Elm (Ulmus Pumilla)

### Cottonwood (Populus Fremonti)

### Poplar (Populus)

### Russian Olive (Elaeagnaceae Angustifolia)

### Willow (Salix) Any variety

### Quaking Aspen (Populus Tremloides)

### American Elm (Ulmus Americana)

### Black Locust (Robinia Pseudoacaia)

### Box Elder (Acer Negundo)

### Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus)

### Idaho Locust (Robinia x Ambigua)

### Birch (Betula) Any variety

### Horse Chestnut (Aesculus)

### Flowering Plum (Prunus Cerasifera)

- Large surface roots guaranteed to raise or crack concrete
- Large surface roots, tree becomes too large for park strip
- Large surface roots, readily volunteers, messy tree
- Large surface roots, guaranteed to raise or crack concrete
- Large surface roots, tree becomes too big for park strip
- Profuse suckering, messy tree, long sharp thorns
- Weak branch structure, falls apart easily
- Weak branching, prone to many disease & insect problems
- Prone to Dutch Elm Disease
- Large seed pods make for messy tree, poor branch structure
- Large surface roots, suckers profusely
- Large surface roots, suckers profusely
- Prone to borers & other health problems, suckers profusely
- Prone to borers, large majority of trees die in our climate
- Large Tree, fruits can be a problem
- Growth habit to wide for park strip, suckers profusely when pruned, hard to keep correctly pruned.

### Conifers - many are listed

Evergreens generally get to large in girth for parkstrips

Colorado Blue Spruce, Austrian Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Pinyon Pine, Mugo Pine, White Fir, Douglas Fir, Sub Alpine Fir, Upright Junipers.



Not to Scale

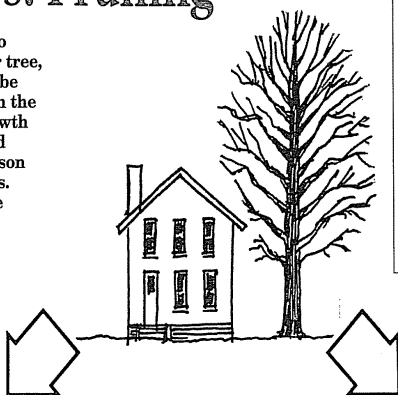
# Topping vs. Pruning

When a decision is made to reduce the size of an older tree, it can be topped, or it can be pruned properly. Although the speed and nature of regrowth will depend on species and local factors, any comparison of irresponsible topping vs. competent pruning will be dramatic.

## Topping by Any Other Name Is Just as Ugly

Sometimes pseudo tree experts use different terms for the malpractice of topping. Here is a rogues' gallery of synonyms:

- Stubbing
- Heading
- Heading-back
- Stubbing-off
- Tipping
- Hatracking
- Topping-off
- Dehorning
- Lopping
- Roundover



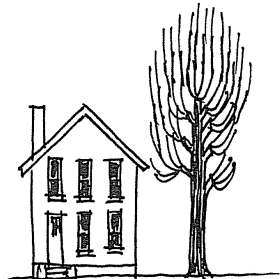
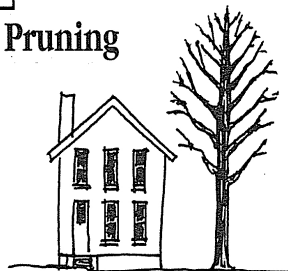
## Topping



## Year 1

The topped tree is an ugly stub and a remnant of a once lovely tree. If pruned properly, size is reduced but form and beauty are retained.

## Pruning



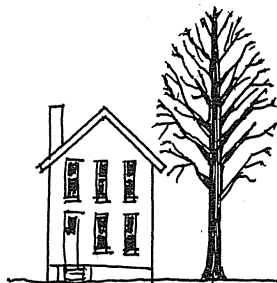
## Year 3

Vigorous sprouts have sprung out of the topped tree in large numbers and are growing with abnormal rapidity. The pruned tree adds growth more slowly and distributes it more normally.



## Year 6

In a relatively short time, the topped tree is as tall—and far bushier and more dangerous—than it was to begin with. The properly pruned tree is safer, more beautiful, and its size better controlled.

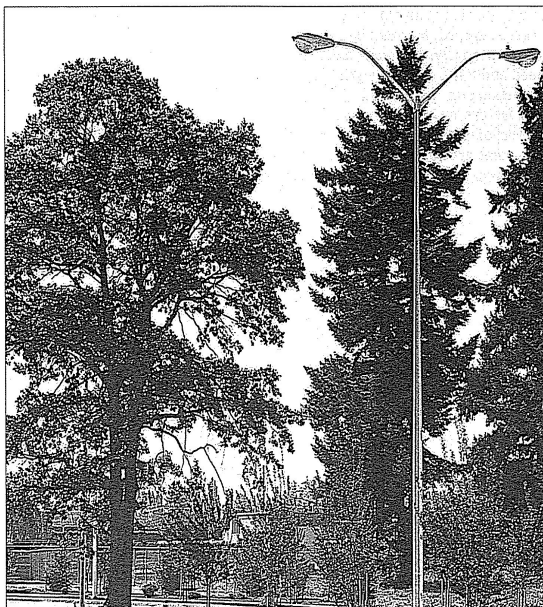


# Alternatives To Topping

There are times when the size and shape of a shade tree need to be controlled. With care and skill, this can be accomplished without marring the tree's beauty or usefulness. Responsible pruning even contributes to the health and safety of a tree.

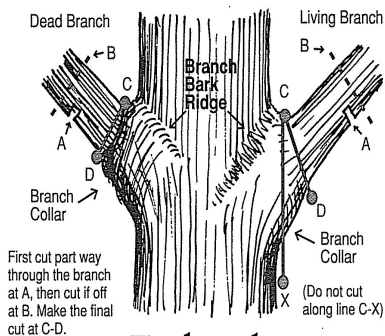
As alternatives to topping, some general principles are:

- ✓ Start out right by planting trees that will fit your available space when they reach maturity. See *Tree City USA Bulletin No. 4*, "The Right Tree for the Right Place."
- ✓ Begin proper pruning early in the life of a tree. See *Tree City USA Bulletin No. 1*, "How to Prune Young Shade Trees."
- ✓ To slow growth of a tree; avoid the use of nitrogen fertilizer.
- ✓ Prune properly and regularly. A light pruning every three years will keep your tree in healthy condition. It will also have less drastic effects on both the landscape and your financial assets compared with neglecting older trees or resorting to topping.



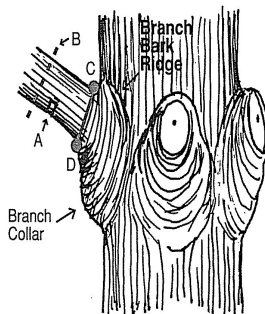
Careful planning at planting time is the best way to reduce the need later to control size or shape of a tree. Placing utilities underground and planting the right species in the right place will allow trees to retain their natural form and beautify landscapes along streets and in parking lots.

## Proper Pruning Principles



### Hardwoods

Thanks largely to the work of Dr. Alex L. Shigo and other scientists at the USDA Forest Service's Northeastern Forest Experiment Station in Durham, NH, much is now understood about a tree's natural system of defense against infections from wounds. Based on this knowledge, these methods of making pruning cuts are recommended to help



### Conifers

work *with* rather than against a tree's natural tendency to wall off injured tissues and prevent the spread of decay. In these illustrations, final cuts should be made from points C to D. Do *not* cut along the C-X, which is simply an imaginary vertical line to help you locate C-D.

## Facts about trees and Sandy City Landscape Codes



Homeowners are responsible for the care and maintenance of the trees in their parkstrips.



Sandy City is now recommending that trees not be planted in parkstrips smaller than 8' in width. Residences with smaller parkstrips are encouraged to plant trees behind sidewalks on their own property.



Sandy City has a list of tree species that are unacceptable in parkstrips. That list is included in this booklet. If you have a tree on that list in your parkstrip, you are encouraged to remove it while it is small and hasn't damaged the sidewalk.



Sandy City requires that trees in parkstrips or on private property be pruned to a height of 8' above the sidewalk and 14' above the roadway from back of curb.



Residences on corner lots are required to have an unobstructed site triangle for 60' from the intersection of the curb in both directions. No structures or vegetation in this triangle shall be over 3' in height. This triangle can be less in some situations. Call Sandy City Public Works Department for information at 568-2999.



Traffic signs and street signs shall not be obstructed by vegetation for at least 100' from the approaching view of the vehicle operator.



Trees should not be planted within 10' of a water meter or fire hydrant and within 20' of a street light.



Trees on your property should not prevent your neighbor from enjoying his property or fully utilizing his property.



Trees straddling property lines or growing in a fence are considered to be jointly owned by both properties.



**TOPPING HURTS TREES.** Topping usually leads to profuse suckering at the cut and is most often detrimental to the health of the tree. Trees can be reduced in height and width through proper pruning. Topping takes away the dignity of trees.





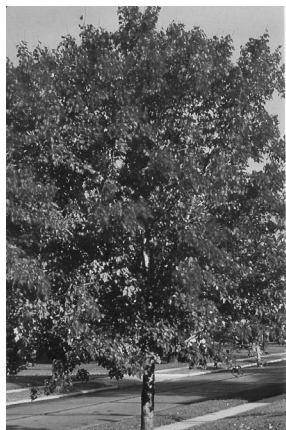
Flowering Pear at Railroad Station Park



Washington Hawthorn



Spring Snow Crabapples at Sandy City Hall



Red Sunset Maple



Hedge Maples on Highland Dr.

One acre of forest absorbs 6 tons of carbon monoxide and puts out 4 tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people.  
(U.S. Dept of Agriculture)



Japanese Zelkova



Swamp White Oak



Littleleaf Linden



#### Answers to Tree Quiz:

1. B Blue Spruce - They grow extensively in Utah forests.
2. C Austrian Pine - Pine trees will always have two or more needles in a bundle. Spruce and fir only have one.
3. B Hybrid Poplar - This is perhaps the fastest growing tree, putting on 5 to 8 feet per year. It is a short-lived tree, weak-wooded and most appropriate to open areas because its root system can cause problems.
4. A Red Oak - Red Oak trees are deep-rooted, which is a better choice to prevent sidewalk damage.
5. A Sugar Maple - These trees have high leaf density and branching characteristics that combine to allow little solar penetration and provide lots of shade.
6. D Purpleleaf Sand Cherry - Purpleleaf Sand Cherry provide a summer fruit for wildlife.
7. B Southwest - Trees planted to the southeast, southwest, or west sides of the house provide cooling shade in summer and don't obstruct the low winter sun.
8. A Goldenrain tree- This is a small and slow growing tree.
9. B Redbud - The Redbud tree only grows 25 feet tall. It has beautiful spring flowers and purple or pink leaves
10. D Lacebark Elm - This is a strong wood, no messy fruit, loses its leaves, and provides a good crown for shade in summer.

## — Helpful Hints —



**NEVER TOP TREES.** Instead use the crown reduction technique.



Trees grow better when planted with other trees instead of in turf or lawn areas. The water needs are more compatible.



Once conifer limbs are removed, they will not grow back in that spot.



Young trees should not be pruned until one year after planting.



Prune shade trees early in spring before bud break.



Never remove more than 1/4 of a tree when pruning.



It is better to leave a tree alone than to top or improperly prune it.



Flowering trees should be pruned after they are done flowering.



Fruit trees should be pruned after the leaves fall off in winter.

**- PLANT A TREE -  
ENJOY NATURE!**



Neff's Grove - 10200 S. State St.